

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:ARDA:PDW

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

PM - MR. VEST (INFO)

DOD/DSAA - GEN. H. FISH

DOD/OSD/ISA - MR. J. NOYES

S/S-O; P. JOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179447 TOSEC 080161

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS FOR JORDAN

FOR SAUNDERS FROM ATHERTON

1. WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS HAVING BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONGRESS FOR DELAY IN CONSIDERATION OF HAWK MISSILE SALE, QUESTION NOW ARISES HOW TO PROCEED WITH REDEYE AND VULCAN. AS YOU KNOW, REDEYE SALE WAS NOT SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. LETTER OF OFFER FOR REDEYES HAD BEEN SIGNED BY JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF HAWK AND VULCAN SALES TO CONGRESS, BUT ACTUAL DELIVERIES WERE HELD UP PENDING OUTCOME OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION ON THE LATTER. AMBASSADOR PICKERING HAS REQUESTED, THROUGH HIS DEFENSE ATTACHE, THAT REDEYES BE DELIVERED BY MID-AUGUST IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. WITH RESPECT TO VULCAN, 20-DAY PERIOD DURING WHICH CONGRESS COULD ACT TO DISAPPROVE SALE EXPIRES JULY 30.

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AFTER THAT DATE, WE CAN PROCEED WITH SIGNATURE OF LETTER

OF OFFER AND DELIVERY OF WEAPONS. IT HAS BEEN CLEAR FROM OUR CONTACTS WITH CONGRESS THAT THEY ASSUME VULCAN AND REDEYE SALES WILL GO FORWARD NOW.

2. WE PROPOSE SENDING FOLLOWING CABLE TO AMMAN OUTLINING HOW WE INTEND TO MOVE AHEAD ON THESE TWO WEAPON SYSTEMS. YOU WILL WANT TO CLEAR THIS TELEGRAM, WHICH HAS DOD APPROVAL, WITH THE SECRETARY.

3. BEGIN TEXT: CONSIDERATION OF HAWK MISSILE SALE HAVING BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER CONGRESSIONAL RECESS, AND 20-DAY PERIOD HAVING EXPIRED WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON VULCAN, WE CAN NOW PROCEED WITH REDEYE AND VULCAN SALES.

4. WE DO NOT WANT TO SEEM TO BE RUSHING TO MAKE SHIPMENTS, BUT WE ARE PREPARED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH SALES IN CONSIDERED WAY. REDEYE MISSILES, AS YOU KNOW, ARE READY FOR DELIVERY AS SOON AS GOJ PAYS FOR THEM, AND ENTIRE SHIPMENT CAN BE DELIVERED TO AMMAN BY END OF AUGUST. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM MAP AMMAN 1904 THAT YOU WISH TO HAVE THEM THERE BY MID-AUGUST, BUT DOD CANNOT COMMIT ITSELF TO DELIVERY BY THIS DATE.) WITH RESPECT TO VULCAN, NEXT STEP IS FOR US TO SEND JORDANIANS THE LETTER OF OFFER FOR THEIR SIGNATURE. PRECISE SHIPMENT DATES WILL REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT IT IS OUR ASSUMPTION THAT FIRST INCREMENT CAN BE DELIVERED ON AN ACCELERATED BASIS AS INDICATED TO GEN. BEN SHAKER LAST MAY (SECDEF 1609, 19 MAY 75).

5. BEFORE ACTUALLY SHIPPING REDEYES AND FORWARDING LETTER OF OFFER ON VULCAN, WE WOULD LIKE WORD FROM YOU THAT THE KING WISHES TO GO AHEAD WITH THE TWO AVAILABLE WEAPON SYSTEMS EVEN THOUGH OUTCOME ON HAWKS IS STILL UNCLEAR. END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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